

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

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\$175,000 GRANT FUNDS NURSE TRAINING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM FOR LOCAL HOSPITALS

KINGSTON -- U.S. Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) was joined by SUNY Ulster President Donald C. Katt, Kingston-Newburgh Enterprise Community (KNEC) Executive Director Barbara Lonczak and local hospital officials today to announce the establishment of a partnership to help train nurses for local hospitals. The partnership is receiving a \$175,000 grant from KNEC, which has received federal funding for job training programs that Hinchey earmarked.

"This partnership makes a great match between the needs of local students to gain hands on experience before they begin their professional careers in health care and the needs of local hospitals, which are struggling to fill positions for nurses and other positions during a national workforce shortage in health care," said Hinchey. "I am very pleased that we were able to bring in the resources of the federal government to make this happen. A critical component of KNEC's mission is to provide the people in our communities with the tools they need to secure good jobs, so this innovative program meets all of our goals."

KNEC has awarded a \$175,000 grant to be administered by SUNY Ulster to fund nursing internships at Kingston Hospital and Benedictine Hospital. The program will fund six graduate nurses and six students who have completed one year of clinical nursing studies at the community college. Nurses will supervise the interns on the job, helping to ease their transition from students to nurses. Hinchey earmarked funding for job training programs at KNEC in the Fiscal Year 2000 and 2001 appropriations bills, which allowed KNEC to make the grant.

"Since its inception, the Kingston-Newburgh Enterprise Community has fostered a number of important and meaningful programs that have addressed the needs of the residents of the Midtown Kingston community," said Kingston Mayor James Sottile. Both Kingston and Benedictine hospitals are major partners in maintaining a lively and healthy midtown environment and I am extremely happy that, in partnership with Ulster County Community College, the hospitals and KNEC have undertaken this very worthwhile and forward thinking program."

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Anthony Marmo, CEO of Kingston Hospital, said of the partnership, "Kingston Hospital staff members pride themselves on our ability to create viable solutions to challenging problems. It is my hope that we will be able to continue to offer the Nursing Preceptor Program and that it will take its place among the many successful and productive projects that cooperation and creativity have fostered. I express our deep appreciation to Congressman Hinchey for his extraordinary leadership in this effort."